



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Cathy Coffman

636-789-3551 ext. 4

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$750,500 TO MINERAL POINT

Greg Branum, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Missouri, announced \$750,500 in funding for the City of Mineral Point in Washington County. A Mock Check ceremony was held on November 21, 2005, at the Mineral Point City Hall. The mock check represents approval of \$275,000 Water and Waste Disposal loan funds and \$469,500 grant funds to install individual septic tanks with pumps and a complete collection system. This sewer system will serve 144 households and 12 commercial



1st row: Randy O'Neal, District Commissioner, Erlean Coleman, Treasurer, Margaret Bowen, Trustee, Paula Williams, Tina Patterson, Chairperson, Cathy Coffman, RD Manager, Donna Martin, Area Specialist, Greg Branum, State Director, and Ashton Holdman (grandchild of Tina Patterson)
2nd row: Pat Graves, Clerk, Todd Moyers, 1st District Commissioner, Bob Reed, Presiding Commissioner, and Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director

businesses. Rural Development also approved a Community Facility Grant of \$6,000 to purchase street signs and stop signs. These signs will help with the new 911 system recently installed in the community. Funds were also used to purchase a salt spreader to keep the public streets safe in freezing conditions.

"Every community in Missouri should have access to a high quality water system," said U.S. Senator Talent, a member of the Senate Agriculture committee. "The funds will be used to construct a water infrastructure system to serve the residents of Mineral Point. This is an example of how the federal government is partnering with the community to meet local needs."

"In Southern Missouri, we face unique challenges on infrastructure issues like water and sewer systems and public services such as emergency response. Because we are a rural region, we place special focus on quality of life and business development issues. Funding rural projects gives us an important opportunity to exhibit our public pride in the towns and counties we call home. USDA Rural Development works very hard to identify opportunities to invest in rural Missouri, and I appreciate their cooperation and determination on this latest round of funding," said U S Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

"This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of a community," said Branum. "These projects mirror USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make these projects a reality. I am pleased that so many rural residents will benefit from these projects."

Branum added, “Appreciation is extended to U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for supporting USDA Rural Development. Economic development, the creation of jobs and funding essential services mirror the Agency’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of increasing economic opportunity in rural communities and improving the quality of life of rural residents”.

Anyone seeking additional information on any USDA Rural Development program may visit the website at (<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/>) or by contacting Cathy Coffman, Rural Development Manager, 10820 Hwy 21 Suite 201, Hillsboro, MO, 63050 or calling 636-789-3551.

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